

COUNCIL OF ROCKFORD GARDENERS, INC.

Organized 3/21/1980

The 4 CRG Clubs:

Plantaholics

Potpourri

Seedlings

Wildflowers

Council Motto:

“Enjoy nature’s bounty
and beauty through work
and creativity.”

Council Website:

councilofrockfordgardeners.org

Club calendars listed
on website,

or please check with your
garden club on status of
individual club activities.



E-Issue V 6 Issue 8

Editor: Kathy Batzkall

OCTOBER 2021



FROM THE PRESIDENT’S PEN

Co-Presidents: Ann Somers & Sarah Britton

Fall has arrived. While bright blue skies and sunny days with crisp air describe the ideal October day, a gloomy rainy Thursday is welcome this year. Our parched gardens appreciate this late season gift. As you put your garden to bed for the winter, remember to leave some housing for our insect and bird friends. Enjoy your time outside!

The Council of Rockford Gardeners Holiday Luncheon and Scholarship Fundraiser has a very different look this year. Deb is hard at work planning and plotting. More information will be available soon... hint: no shoes required!

Our hard-working crew in the Ethel Johnson Lilac Garden at Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden put in 61.5 hours this summer. Thank you, Anita, Rosanne, Jen, Judi, Amy, Kristen, Jackie, Lora and Ann. We'll be back in 2022. All are welcome to join this fun crew!

A huge thank you to Peg Goral! After many years of volunteering in almost every position on Council, her latest as our Sunshine Chair, Peg is stepping down. She will be missed!

***Don't forget to check us out on Facebook:
Council of Rockford Gardeners, Inc.***

Keep playing in the dirt,

Sarah & Ann

OCTOBER
2021

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SUBMIT questions or
comments to:

CRGnews815@gmail.com



Save the date!

December 8, 2021

*You are invited to a
Holiday "No Show" Luncheon
and Scholarship Fundraiser*

~ In the comfort of your own home ~

Prizes



Watch for further details
next month
in your US mailbox

☞ **Note to members** ☞
We need you!!

Two of our Council of Rockford Gardeners Board members,
Gina Ross and Peg Goral are retiring.
If you would be interested in writing the horticulture column for
the newsletter (see page 4 for example), or being our Sunshine
representative to send get well or sympathy cards to members,
please contact Ann Somers: annsomers@comcast.net.



Spring Plant Sale AND Garden Boutique



The Council of Rockford Gardeners (all clubs) will be having a Spring Plant Sale and Garden Boutique, with the date and location yet to be determined, possibly late May. Proceeds from this sale will be used for our scholarship fund. We need the support of all garden club members to make this a success. It will be open to the public.

Please keep this in mind as you put your garden to bed by saving pots and yard art that you are no longer going to use and could donate to our sale. Also, as you bring in plants like Canna set aside a couple bulbs to start in early spring. Succulents and houseplants can be divided for the sale also.

Here are some suggestions for the sale:

- . Plants, plants, and more plants
- . Seeds, pots, plant stands, garden art
- . Garden related fabric, linens, jewelry, framed art work and wall decor
- . Greeting and note cards
- . Anything bird related: bird houses, feeders, birdbaths etc.

- . Vintage and new garden tools
- . Gardening books and magazines
- . Spring decor, wreaths
- . Glassware, mugs, plates, serving dishes
- . T-shirts, jackets, hats, gloves, boots

Items do not need to be new, but must be clean and in good sellable condition. If you go to garage sales, Salvation Army, Good Will or estate sales, keep an eye out for items to include in our Boutique. If you do garden crafts, make extra!

If you have any questions, ideas, or want to volunteer now, call or email Lynne at 815-985-2454 or ljlynde@aol.com.

This will be a huge undertaking and a lot of fun for our clubs. We are all so creative!! We will need lots of volunteers! More info to come in future newsletters.



Please support the sale in any way you can so we can assist a horticulture student with a scholarship!



HORTICULTURE HAPPENINGS

Gina Ross, University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener, Winnebago County

Celebrate Autumn with Color

Autumn has arrived! Let's focus on the beauty the season brings. We are fortunate to have many plants to choose from to add fall color to our landscape long after the summer blooms fade. When choosing fall color, remember the birds that overwinter here and need a food source. Here's a sampling of ideas for your yard:

SHRUBS: **Black and red Chokeberry** are hardy, adaptable shrubs providing beauty and food for wildlife. They need full sun and moist, well-drained soil. These are truly 4-season plants as they provide flowers for bees in spring and brilliant fall foliage and berries in the fall.

Arrowwood Viburnums and black-haw also 4-season plants, giving purple and orange fall color along with blue-black berries attracting birds. They can grow in full sun to part shade. The Arrowwood berries' high fat content makes them a great food source for overwintering and migrating birds. In spring and summer their flowers invite butterflies and bees.

Other shrubs to consider: sumac, oak leaf hydrangeas, red and yellow twig dogwood and fothergilla.

TREES: **Eastern Redbud's** heart-shaped green leaves turn strikingly yellow in fall, and the tree's irregular branching patterns are eye-catching in winter. In spring the tree sprouts magenta-pink flowers. Early spring blossoms attract early-season butterflies and other nectar-seeking insects.

White Birch's golden fall leaves and showy white bark makes this tree shine. Like other native birches, it is more resistant to borer damage than European and Asian birch species. Native birches host over 400 butterfly and moth species and feed more

than 35 bird species. Paper birch's exfoliating bark provides overwintering insects with hiding places, supplying woodpeckers with food when they need it most.

Other trees to consider, Autumn Brilliance serviceberry, Ginkgo, Sugar Maple, Japanese Maples

PERENNIALS: **Hostas** play a role in fall color as many varieties turn a beautiful shade of golden yellow. **Bluestar** (*Amsonia* spp.) has attractive blue flowers in the spring and golden fall foliage. It takes full sun and is drought resistant. **Barrenwort** (*Epimedium* spp.) produces tidy mounds of heart-shaped foliage that can create splashes of yellow, orange, and red toward the end of the growing season.

Coneflowers are drought resistant, from mid-summer right through late fall. They require full sun and are deer resistant.

Butterflies love the flowers, and if you let the late fall blooms dry on the plant, the birds will eat the seeds in the cones in the fall. **Black-eyed Susan's** have bright yellow flowers and their seed heads serve as food for the birds.

Other perennials to consider are asters, phlox, and sunflowers.

GRASSES: Grasses add motion to the landscape. Their seed heads are a food source for birds. **Switchgrass** brings outstanding fall color and works well with reds, yellows and oranges. **Blue Fescue** offers a striking contrast as the grass is a blue green against the fall landscape. Ornamental fountain grass is compact and has arching form. Other grasses to consider: **Prairie dropseed**, **Cordgrass**, **Indiangrass**, **Big and little bluestem**, **Northern Sea oats**. Sedges work well for shade areas.



Coneflowers and Black-eyed Susan's



Standing ovation Little bluestem



Ginkgo in Fall

Remember to keep your hummingbird feeders clean and filled. The hummers will be around for a little bit longer.

Autumn is the second spring when every leaf is a flower.

- Albert Camus

Pumpkin Turkey Chili

Created by Hannah Thomas

https://pallensmith.com/recipes/recipe/pumpkin-turkey-chili/?mc_cid=71bf69c2f4&mc_eid=0f9d9e6bfa

Arkansas chef and restaurateur Scott McGehee prepared this yummy chili at a Moss Mountain Farm Halloween party. We served it topped with a little fried sage and sour cream and a thick slice of corn and green chili cornbread. Delish!

INGREDIENTS

1 1/2 teaspoons olive oil

1 pound ground turkey

1 onion, chopped

2 cups water

1 28-ounce can crushed tomatoes

1 16-ounce can cannellini beans, drained

1 tablespoon garlic, minced

3 tablespoons dark chili powder

1/2 teaspoon paprika

1/2 teaspoon dried oregano

1 chipotle pepper in adobo

1 tablespoon ground cumin

2 teaspoons salt

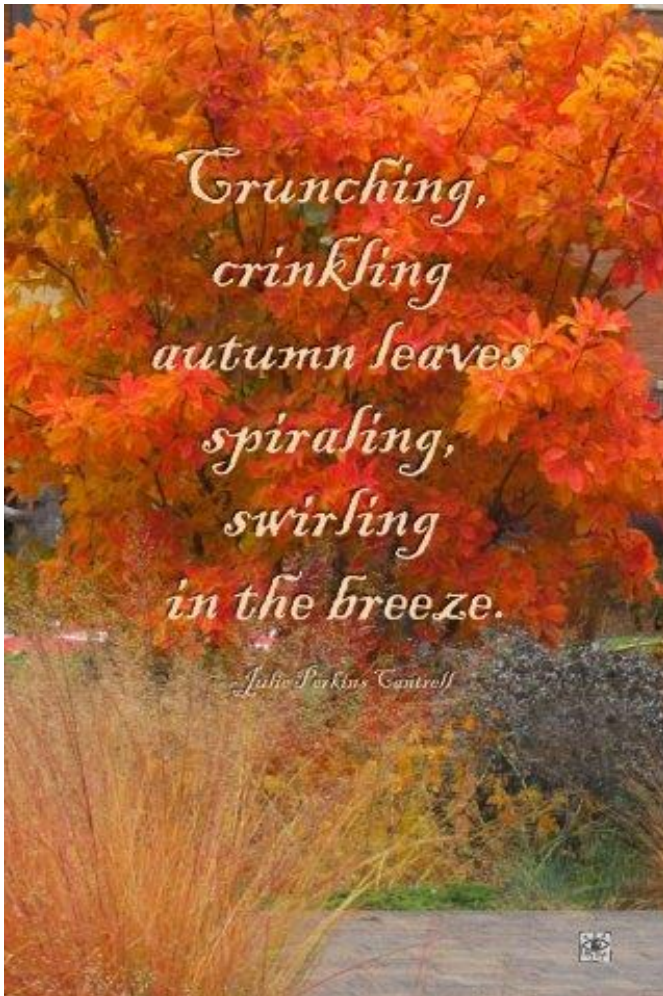
1/2 teaspoon black pepper, ground

2 cups pumpkin or butternut squash, peeled and diced

INSTRUCTIONS

Heat the oil in a large pot over medium heat. Place turkey in the pot and cook until evenly brown. Stir in onion and cook until tender.

Pour the water into the pot. Mix in tomatoes, white beans, pumpkin, and garlic. Season chili powder, paprika, oregano, chipotle, cumin, salt, and pepper. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low, cover, and simmer 30 minutes.



Thanks to these Potpourri club members for their faithful work in the Rock River Valley Pantry garden

thank you!

Susan Schmitz

Diane Donze

Arch Smith

Susan Bonzi

thank you!

Vicki Woodhouse

Becki Dennis

Mary Ann Miller

Sherry Seaver

Steve and Mary Jo Hull

thank you!

OCTOBER 4, 2021 COUNCIL MEETING REPORT



TREASURER'S REPORT - Submitted by **Mary Ann Miller**, Treasurer

Balance as of September 1, 2021	\$2,683.95
Receipts (none).....	0.00
Disbursements:.....	(6.00)
(Garden Clubs of Illinois)	
Ending Balance as of August 31, 2021.....	\$2,677.95

Programs – **Deb Bieschke** reported that she is working on the “No Show Luncheon” and asks our members to donate to our scholarship fund. Each of our 4 clubs will provide a \$50 gift for the raffle. Arch Smith reported that he took care of ordering gifts for both Plantaholics and Potpourri. Seedlings and Wildflowers also need to provide raffle items. It was suggested that the first name drawn would have first choice of the 4 raffle items, which will be listed on the mailed invitation to each member.

Publicity – **Susan Schumacher** confirmed that we do not need any news release since the “luncheon” is for members only. She also reported Facebook page is going ok, with new “postees” needing approval before posting.

Awards – **Ann Somers** reported that Elaine Parrovecchio will contact Kishwaukee College soon regarding possible recipients. The scholarship information will be highlighted in the newsletter. The next time we have a luncheon, the scholarship recipients will be invited.

Civic and Conservation – No report.

Garden Walk – **Arch Smith** reported that one garden did drop out, but he has another lined up.

Horticulture – **Ann Somers** again reported that Gina Ross is done writing her column at the end of the year. A replacement is needed for next year.

Hospitality – **Ann Somers** reported that we will meet at Klehm again in November - either inside or outside. Ann said that our ties with Klehm are “pretty tight”. There are 2 gardens at Klehm named after our members and we are doing things for our community. The patio is available to anyone who comes here, and Klehm is also available for luncheons and other things. Ann said that this is our community and our arboretum. In Ethel Johnson’s Lilac Garden there will be shade eventually to shelter the hostas. Ethel also wanted hostas in that garden. Ann said that members have donated 61 hours in

the lilac garden, and more members can join the group in the spring.

Newsletter – **Kathy Batzkall** would like articles to her by the end of the week of each Council meeting in order to have our newsletter completed and sent out within a week after the meeting.

Parliamentarian – No report.

Sunshine – **Ann Somers** reported that Peg Goral will not continue on the board. She is done as of now but has cards to give to the next “Sunshine” person. A request will be made that we need a replacement for the “Sunshine” position.

Ways & Means – **Lynne Franzene-Lynde** asked if we picked a date for the plant and garden item sale in the spring, however a sale date has not been decided. She would like to have some “reminder” go out so that our members can set aside some of their garden art and save plants to divide in the spring for the sale.

Website – **Kathy Batzkall** reported that she contacted the webmaster about any fees that we may owe for 2021, but has not heard back from him.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.



Our next meeting will be on Monday, November 1, at 9:30 A.M. at Klehm Arboretum. The meeting will be either indoors or outside, depending on the weather. *All garden club members are encouraged to attend.*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE GARDEN EVENTS

ANDERSON JAPANESE GARDENS

Photography contest, October 4th - November 7th.
Cash Prizes. Visit <https://andersongardens.org/anderson-gardens-photo-contest/> for more information.

KLEHM ABORETUM & BOTANIC GARDEN

Autumn at the Arboretum

Saturday, October 9 – Friday, October 15
Open 9 am – 4 pm, **Daily Free Admission**

Fall Foliage Walk and Watercolor

Saturday, October 23, 10 am-1 pm, \$35
Guided walk through the Arboretum followed by Art-byKarla watercolor session using leaves gathered on the walk. Dress for outdoors.
Register online at www.klehm.org/events.

NICHOLAS CONSERVATORY & GARDENS

Savage Gardens: *THE REAL AND IMAGINARY WORLD OF CARNIVOROUS PLANTS*

Through NOVEMBER 7

The display features dozens of species, including Venus flytraps, pitcher plants, trumpet plants, butterworts, sundews, and more. Regular admission rates apply.

'OAKTOBER' EVENTS, Various locations*

*SEVERSON DELLS

Geology Hike, Severson Dells

Tuesday, October 12th: 5-6:30pm | \$5 RSVP
<https://www.seversondells.com/events/geologyhike-oct-12-2021>

Geocaching Hike, Severson Dells

Saturday, October 16th: 2-4pm free, RSVP:
<https://815outside.com/event/geocaching-hike-at-severson-dells/>

Full Moon Hike, Severson Dells

Wednesday, October 20th: 6-8:30pm | \$5, RSVP:
<https://www.seversondells.com/events/fullmoonhike-oct20-2021-cfkn>

*815 OUTSIDE

Bike Trip Along the Stone Bridge Trail with 815 Outside
Sunday, October 24th: 2-4pm | free, please RSVP here: <https://815outside.com/event/bike-trip-along-the-stone-bridge-trail/>

Hike at Levings Park, 815 Outside

Wednesday, October 27th: 4-5:30pm | free, please RSVP here: <https://815outside.com/event/hike-at-levings-park/>

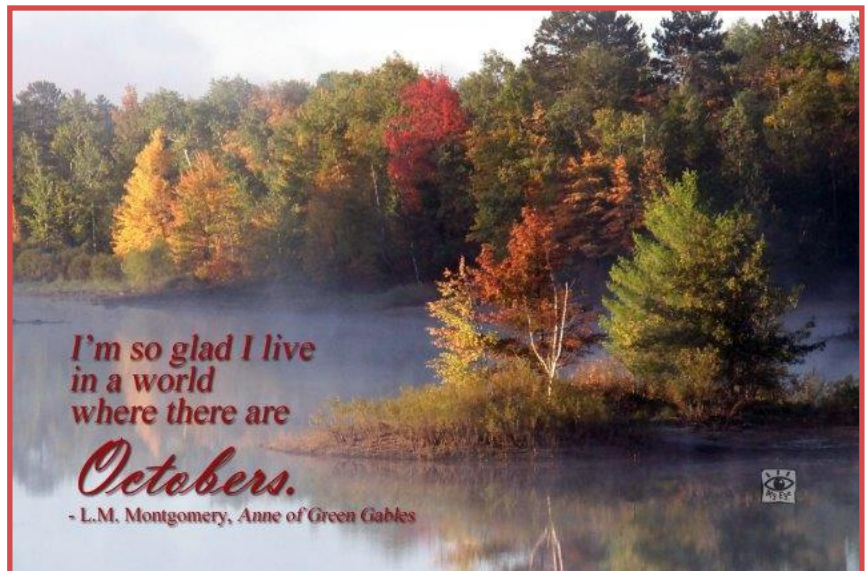
*NATURAL LAND INSTITUTE

OAKtober Hike with the Natural Land Institute

Thursday, October 30th: 1:30-3pm | \$5, please RSVP here: <https://www.naturalland.org/event/oaktober-hike-2021/>

Did you know....

Humans consume the equivalent of a credit card worth of plastic every week. Plastic is in the air we breathe, the water we drink and the food we eat. The single largest source of plastic ingestion is through water, both bottled and tap.



GARDEN CLUB PHOTOS



Arch Smith shared these photo's of Charlie Refol's "pride & joy", Brugmansia/ trumpet tree that Arch started from a cutting 7 years ago. "Takes about 5 years before they start blooming... bloomed 3 times this summer and is blooming now."



Seedlings members made concrete planters with **Lynne Franzene Lynde** in August.



Some of our **Plantaholics** members got to enjoy this delightful display of dahlias and roses. It's such fun to find bits of inspiration from each and every garden.

